AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:

inserting a stent over a mandrel having a hollow tubular body and pores disposed on a surface of the mandrel, the pores extending through the body;

applying a coating composition to the stent; and

applying a vacuumed pressure to the hollow tubular body for extracting some of the coating composition that is applied to the stent, wherein the pressure is applied at least during application of the coating composition to the stent; and

rotating the stent about the longitudinal axis of the stent during the application of the vacuumed pressure.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the coating composition is applied by spraying the composition onto the stent.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the coating composition includes a polymer dissolved in a solvent and a therapeutic substance optionally added thereto.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the mandrel contacts an inner surface of the stent.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the mandrel does not contact an inner surface of the stent.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the mandrel includes a support element to contact a first end of the stent, a lock element to contact a second end of the stent,

the hollow tubular body connecting the support element to the lock element.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the support and lock elements prevent an outer surface of the hollow tubular body from making contact with an inner surface of the stent.

9. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the support element penetrates at least partially into the first end of the stent and/or wherein the lock element penetrates at least partially into the second end of the stent.

10. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the support and/or lock element include a bore in fluid communication with the hollow tubular body.

11. (previously presented) A method of coating a stent, comprising:

mounting a stent on or over a hollow body having pores on a surface of the body, the hollow body being in communication with a pressure device to receive a pressure; and

performing the following acts contemporaneously:

applying a coating substance to the stent,

rotating the stent about the longitudinal axis of the stent, and

applying a pressure into the hollow body to modify the coating substance that is being applied to the stent.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein an inner surface of the stent is in intimate contact with an outer surface of the hollow body.

13. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein an inner surface of the stent does not make contact with an outer surface of the hollow body.

14. (currently amended) A method of coating a stent, comprising:

mounting a stent on or over a hollow body having pores on a surface of the body, the hollow body being in communication with a pressure device to receive a pressure;

applying a coating substance to the stent;

rotating the stent about the longitudinal axis of the stent; and

applying a pressure into the hollow body to modify the coating substance applied to the stent, wherein the application of the pressure is conducted contemporaneously with ~~rotating the stent~~ applying the coating substance.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein an inner surface of the stent is in intimate contact with an outer surface of the hollow body.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14, wherein an inner surface of the stent does not make contact with an outer surface of the hollow body.

17. (canceled)

18. (new) The method of Claim 14, wherein the stent is mounted over the hollow body so that an inner surface of the stent is spaced apart from an outer surface of the hollow body by a support element attached to the hollow body and contacting the stent.